4. (Amended Twice) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 3, wherein the metal reflective film is not formed on a portion of the substrate that is adjacent to the injection portion of the sealing material, said portion of the substrate where the metal reflective film has not been formed providing an inspection area for the visual inspection of the injection portion in the sealing material.

5. (Amended Twice) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 3, wherein the metal reflective film is not formed on a portion of the substrate that is adjacent to a first drawn electrode forming region and a second drawn electrode forming region, said portion of the substrate where the metal reflective film has not been formed providing an inspection area for the visual inspection of the first drawn electrode forming region and the second drawn electrode forming region.

- - REMARKS - -

Claims 1-6 were pending in the application. Claims 1-5 have been rewritten. The changes to the rewritten claims from the previous versions to the rewritten versions are shown in Appendix A (attached hereto as Tab A), with brackets for deleted matter and underlines for added matter. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,893,625 to Tamatani et al. ("Tamatani") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,832,467 to Miyagi et al. ("Miyagi"). The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully traversed. The claims have nevertheless been amended further define the invention, to eliminate any ambiguity that may have been the basis for the rejections, and to place this application in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 1-3 are each directed to a liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates with liquid crystal disposed therebetween and a reflective metal film disposed on the surface of one of the substrates. Each of these claims further requires that the reflective metal surface not be formed on a specific

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portion of the substrate (i.e., and unformed region of the reflective metal surface). With respect to claim 1, the portion of the substrate that does not include the reflective metal surface is adjacent to the injection portion in the sealing material. With respect to claim 2, the portion of the substrate that does not include the reflective metal surface is adjacent to the drawn electrode region. With respect to claim 3, the portion of the substrate that does not include the reflective metal surface is adjacent to the region in which the second drawn electrode and the display electrode of the other of the substrates are connected to each other on the sealing material. Moreover, each of these claims has been amended to clarify that the portion of the substrate that does not include the metal reflective surface provides an inspection area for the visual inspection of the injection portion (claim 1) or the drawn electrode regions (claims 2 and 3).

The present invention, as reflected in the claim limitations discussed above, addresses problems in the prior art associated with liquid crystal displays comprising reflective metal surfaces. As set forth in detail in the background section of the specification for the instant application, the reflective metal surface on such prior art devices typically extended across the entire surface area of the substrate. Because the reflective metal surface was opaque, numerous problems relating to the manufacture and inspection of such devices have been encountered. The present invention overcomes these problems by limiting the coverage of the reflective metal surface to only a portion of the surface of the substrate. In other words, the reflective metal surface is not formed on specific areas of the substrate where, for example, the ability to see through the substrate (i.e., to perform a visual inspection) is necessary or beneficial.

These features and limitations are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. With respect to Tamatani, the Examiner admits that this reference fails to disclose or suggest a reflective metal film formed on the surface of one of the substrates. Moreover, the Examiner admits that Tamatani does not disclose or suggest those limitations of claims 1-3 that require that the reflective metal surface not be formed on a specific portion of the substrate (i.e., and unformed region of the reflective metal surface).

However, it is the Examiner's position that these limitations are disclosed by Miyagi. Applicants respectfully disagree. Although Miyagi appears to disclose a liquid

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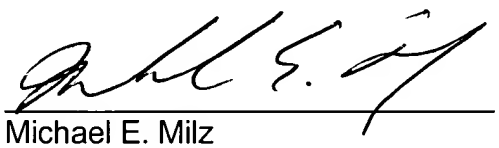
crystal mirror in which a metal reflective film is coated on the outside surface of the back substrate, Miyagi fails to disclose or suggest that the metal reflective film not be formed on a specific portion of the substrate as required by claims 1-3. Moreover, Miyagi fails to disclose or suggest the formation of inspection areas adjacent to the injection portion (claim 1) or the drawn electrode regions (claims 2 and 3).

Irrespective of the above, the Examiner has asserted that it would have been obvious to not form the reflective film on areas adjacent to the display region "so as to distinguish the brightness between the display region and the non-display region" (November 20 final Office Action, page 3). The assertion is irrelevant to the present invention since the unformed areas of the metal reflective film, as set forth in the claims, form visual inspection areas, and have nothing to do with the brightness of the display region. In any event, neither Miyagi nor Tamatani makes any suggestion regarding the formation of unformed areas of the metal reflective film, irrespective of the purpose or function of such unformed areas.

In view of the above, independent claims 1-3 are not rendered unpatentable by the prior art. Claims 4-6 are each dependent on claim 3 and are therefore likewise patentable.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is now earnestly requested. If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4273.

Respectfully submitted,



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